

## Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-25

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R 241925Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8849

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0475

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, TD, US

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN DISCUSSIONS WITH TRINIDAD AND  
TOGABO

REF: LONDON 02690,

1. ENROUTE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO I STOPPED IN SAN JUAN  
AND MET WITH PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ALBORS  
FEB 23. WE HAD A CORDIAL DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICAN  
ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FORTHCOMING DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
PUERTO RICO AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

2. AS INSTRUCTED, I REMINDED ALBORS OF NECESSITY THAT  
ANY RELATIONSHIP WHICH EVOLVED BE CONSISTENT WITH CONSTI-  
TUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR CONDUCT  
OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. I ALSO NOTED THAT ANY SPECIFIC  
INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGE WITH THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
(CARICOM) WOULD APPEAR TO REQUIRE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL  
LEGISLATION AS HAD BEEN OBTAINED WITH RESPECT TO THE  
PROPOSED PUERTO RICAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN  
DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB).

3. ALBORS WAS QUITE CLEAR ON THE CONSTITUTIONALLY  
INHERENT LIMITATIONS ON SEPARATE BILATERAL ACTION BY THE  
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT. I REPEATEDLY REITERATED  
THAT PR MUST NOT BECOME A PARTY TO ANY CARIBBEAN  
ARRANGEMENT FOR WHICH "SOVEREIGNTY" WAS A REQUIREMENT  
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FOR MEMBERSHIP. HE EXPLAINED THAT PUERTO RICO'S

INTEREST IN THE CDB AND OTHER LINKAGES WITH CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS WAS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ECONOMIC. ALBORS IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY ERIC WILLIAMS' CURRENT OVER-TURES, HOWEVER, NOT YET HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO THE FULL FLAVOR OF WILLIAMS' CONVERSATIONS WITH THE USG. I AM TOLD THAT WILLIAMS' PRIMARY INTERESTS IN THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE WITH PUERTO RICO IS ALSO ECONOMIC, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT CONCEPTUAL OVERTONES RELATING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. AFTER I HAVE PERSONALLY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS SOME OF THE NUANCES OF ERIC WILLIAMS' VIEWS AND INTENTIONS, I WILL COMMENT FURTHER.

4. IF THE CHEMISTRY OF THE PROPOSED MARCH MEETING GOES WELL, HOWEVER, IT COULD HAVE ONE VERY DIRECT BENEFIT TO USG IN MORE FORTHRIGHT GOTT DEFENSE OF THE PUERTO RICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES IN UN DEBATES. BELIEVE PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS SHOULD PULL NO PUNCHES IN TALKING WITH THEIR TRINIDADIAN COUNTERPARTS AS TO IMPORTANCE OF DIRECTLY OPPOSING THE CUBAN ALLEGATIONS OF "COLONIALISM".

FAY

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